



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY POSTS STRONG GAINS

HELENA, Mont. --- Montana's construction industry saw a large increase in employment from January to February, with over 1,400 jobs added. This increase comprised almost half of the total gain in jobs, which was 3,200 for the one month period. The unemployment rate rebounded slightly, returning to 3.7%, equaling a historic low set in December of 2005.\*

The Department of Labor and Industry's Business Standards Division validates this employment increase, noting that the Department's Building Codes Bureau issued 86 building permits in February for commercial and public projects statewide with a total valuation in excess of \$26 million. "This is an increase of 30% in permit numbers for February 2006 as compared with 2005," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "And a 209% increase in project valuation."

In addition to the change in Construction employment, Leisure and Hospitality gained 600 jobs. Education and Health Services\*\* and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities each showed an increase of 400 positions. Government and Natural Resources and Mining gained 200 jobs, while Manufacturing and Financial Activities increased by

100. Information<sup>\*\*</sup>, Professional and Business Services, and Other Services<sup>\*\*</sup> recorded no change.

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at [www.ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org)

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*\*Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

*\*\*These industry sectors are not-seasonally adjusted.*

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***

**County unemployment rates are also available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.**

**Employment information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs is available on the Department of Labor and Industry web page at:**  
[dli.state.mt.us/resources/articles.asp](http://dli.state.mt.us/resources/articles.asp)

**The March 2006 Labor Situation Report will be released Monday, April 21, 2006.**